

E. N. FERDON, JR.

1913-2002

EDWIN NELSON FERDON SUCCUMBED to cancer on November 13, 2002 at the age of 89. Born in Minnesota, Ed's interest in archaeology bloomed when, as an Eagle Scout, he led a group in trenching a Hopewell culture Indian mound in Ohio. Ferdon



graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1937 and later received a master's degree from the University of Southern California. He began working for the Museum of New Mexico in Santa Fe 1937, but left when offered an opportunity for fieldwork in Ecuador where he spent over three years hiking the Andes and rainforests while conducting a survey of

archeological sites. Ed's career direction changed dramatically in 1955 after Thor Heyerdahl asked him to be one of the archaeologists on the expedition to Easter Island and the East Pacific. He later published his own recollections of the expedition in *One Man's Log* and co-authored with Heyerdahl two voluminous books of scientific reports of the expedition. "Ed Ferdon was a pioneer of Pacific anthropology," said John Olson, director of the UA Department of Anthropology. "He managed to weld ethnographic and archaeological perspectives on large-scale human migrations into coherent, testable hypotheses for the first peopling of the Pacific Basin."

Ed published widely, authoring some 40 monographs and articles on subjects ranging from Ecuadorian geography to Polynesian culture and crop origins, Hohokam ball courts, and the ruins of Tonalá, Chiapas. He published three books on pre-missionary Polynesian cultures in Tahiti, Tonga, and the Marquesas Islands. The forth and final book in the series is tentatively entitled *Contact and Change in Old Hawaii: An Ethno-historic Study*.

JEHANNE TEILHET-FISK

1939-2002

THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY LOST a beloved member when Dr. Jehanne H. Teilhet-Fisk passed away on August 28, 2002 at the age of 63. Jehanne had battled cancer several times and inspired many with her courage, determination and stamina. She is survived by her husband, Zachary, daughter Samantha, and step-daughter, Rebekah.

While Jehanne is perhaps best known for her work in the Kingdom of Tonga, she came to the study of Polynesian arts by way of Africa and Native America. Jehanne spent two years as curator at the National Museum in Jos, Nigeria, and also did research in Suriname and Haiti. Her residence in the Southwest placed her among the Pueblos of Northern New Mexico where she frequently attended cultural events and enjoyed studying

Native American arts. After finishing her dissertation in art history, published as *Paradise Reviewed: An Interpretation of Gauguin's Polynesian Symbolism*, at the University of California, Los Angeles, Jehanne concentrated on teaching. In 1969, she joined the faculty at the newly established Department of Visual Arts at the University of California, San Diego. Jehanne developed courses in the non-western arts, her most popular was VA13 which routinely was filled to capacity with eager students. Jehanne demonstrated the potential and value extant in the outside world and encouraged her students to look for humanity, beauty and spirituality outside our own experiences. In addition to art historians, she directly influenced the careers of filmmakers, photographers, dancers, musicians, artists, anthropologists, and many others.

Jehanne considered fieldwork an intrinsic part of the educational experience and arranged for students to accompany her into the field. Few would venture to live in a small island guesthouse with a dozen college students of extremely diverse backgrounds while conducting her own research (with herself as sole chaperone)! In addition to travel experiences, Jehanne also welcomed partners in the curatorial process and produced two exhibitions with groups of students: *Dimensions of Black* and *Dimensions of Polynesia* (1973). She was honored with the University of California's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1990. Despite various challenges, Jehanne remained a most generous and dedicated teacher and worked tirelessly to impart her respect and admiration for other cultures.

In the early 1990s she worked on Tongan clothing, the *tao'vala* and *kiekie*, as well as "grave art", published in *Pacific Arts* and *Art and Identity in Oceania* respectively. Other articles on Tongan arts included "To beat or not to beat, that is the question: a study on acculturation and change in an art-making process and its relation to gender structures" about the ngatu machine invented by Geoffrey Houghland (in *Pacific Studies*). She was a judge at various Miss Heilala competitions and wrote an essay about Tongan beauty pageants in the book, *Beauty Queens on the Global Stage*. Other topics include the question of masking in Polynesia, Heilala Pageant Parades as well as the possible origins of Tongan ivory goddess figures.

In 1994, the Fisk family moved to Tallahassee, Florida, where she joined the faculty of the Department of Art History at Florida State University. Jehanne brought her expertise to a department ripe for change and quickly attracted students to her new graduate program. In the spring of 1996, Jehanne and Robin Nigh co-curated an elaborate exhibition, *Dimensions of Native America: The Contact Zone*. She contributed an essay on Plains Indian quilting while mentoring the students writing

